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OBSERVATIONS ON THREE SKULLS OF NALOO AFRICANS.

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These skulls have belonged to mature but not aged individuals: two (A and B) are male; the third (C) appears to be a female. They shew no trace of disease. According to Camper's method the facial angle of the skull B is 70°, that of C is 67°, while that of A does not exceed 65°. All exhibit the prognathic character in its extreme degree, but it is less marked in B, owing to the minor development of the incisive alveoli, to which also the difference in the facial angle is chiefly attributable.

By the "vertical" or Blumenbachian method of comparison, the oval is long, narrow, much contracted anteriorly; but in this respect the skull B has the advantage, and shews a greater fulness of the frontal region.

In the anterior comparison, or by "Pritchard's method," the two tangential lines carried from the malar prominence upwards meet much sooner in A than in B or C. The individual differences in this respect being so great, especially in A and C, as to affect the value of this mode of comparison in its relation to the characteristics of race.

The comparison, according to the basal method, shews the same degree of posterior position of the foramen occipitale, as compared with the Indo-European or American races which the majority of Ethiopian skulls manifest; and also the same advanced position of the alveolar area, in relation to the zygomatic arches. The extent to which the latter arches are occupied by the outline of the cranium behind, is rather greater in B than in A and C, but is in a marked degree less in all than in the Indo-European family. The basi-occipital is long and straight; this inferior character is well marked in A.

The molar teeth have the characteristic superiority of size of the lower Ethiopic races in A and C, but they are smaller in B; and it is interesting to find this approach to the higher races accompanying the more open facial angle and the fuller oval contour of upper region of the cranium; the teeth are also less worn, which would lead to the conjecture that the individual had been of higher rank than A.

The par-occipital processes (marked with a + in ink) are unusually clearly developed in A and C, on both sides; when present in Europeans it is a rare anomaly and usually on one side only. It is an interesting manifestation of a character common in the skulls of brutes, where the par-occipitals generally take the function of the mastoids, and are called mastoid by Cuvier and De Blainville.

The par-occipital process is to be distinguished from that angle of the occipital which completes the foramen jugulare, and which Bourgery depicts as the "processus jugularis" of the French school of Anthropotomists.

The superior occipital ridge is well marked in the two male skulls; in all the supra-occipital swells out behind or beyond that ridge.

The malar bones are protuberant, and the orbital boundary is less sharply defined than in higher races of mankind, they are more rounded off, which is an approach to the large apes.

The internal nasal suture is obliterated in A. The glabella is prominent in all, but less so than in the Australian skulls, from which likewise the Naloo skulls differ in the larger proportion in which the ali-sphenoid unites with the parietal.

As in all Ethiopian skulls the cranial sutures are less complex, and more obliterated considering the age of the specimens. Again, however, this character is less marked in the skull B.

There is a trace of the frontal suture above the nasal bones in C; and in the female skulls of other races this immature character is more frequently retained than in the males. As individual peculiarities there may be noticed the deep and almost symmetrical grooving of the frontal bone by the supra-orbital nerves and vessels in A. The same character is more feebly repeated in C.

The general cranial characters of the Ethiopian race are manifested in all, by the narrow anteriorly contracted oval cranium, by the prognothic jaw, and by the protuberant cheek-bones; but they are most strongly marked in A and C, except that the cheek-bones shew the sexual inferiority of development, together with the weaker zygomata in the female skull C.